

For the Education Committee
On Senate Bill 24

February 29, 2012

My name is Julie Barker and I am a teacher and resident in Cheshire Connecticut. I would like comment on Senate Bill 24 regarding teacher tenure. The teacher tenure process is not a way to keep bad teachers in the classroom, but simply provides a framework for teacher dismissal. Under the tenure process veteran teachers, like me, can feel sure that they will not loose their job simply because hiring a younger, less experienced teacher is cheaper. Veteran teachers are the key to success in education.

Teacher tenure does provide a process for administrators to terminate the employment of unsuccessful teachers. Tenure is not at fault for poor teachers remaining in the classroom. That responsibility lies with administrators who do not implement the procedures in the tenure process that leads to dismissing a teacher.

Please help insure that Connecticut's teachers cannot be dismissed without cause. I urge you to retain the current teacher tenure policies.

Sincerely,

Julie Barker
Physics Teacher
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